

Kingswood Regional High School

Academics-Respect-Responsibility-Community



Incoming Freshman Placement Guidelines

2021/2022

Kingswood Regional High School seeks to meet the individual needs of students by providing leveled classes in the core academic areas of English, Mathematics, Social Studies, World Language and Science. 9th grade is a pivotal year in laying a foundation to reach graduation requirements and therefore thoughtful and proper placement is an important process. Proper placement includes consideration of information from standardized testing, classroom performance, and attendance. Parents are encouraged to discuss placement guidelines and subsequent placement recommendations with their student and respective middle and high school staff members.

There is an appeal process for changing recommendations with a deadline of March 5, 2021. Please see page 11 of this document for further details.

Course Selection Guidelines for Entering 9th Grade Students

How are placement recommendations made for each student?

- All general education courses are based on NH Frameworks no matter what the level of instruction.
- All courses at the College/Tech Prep (CTP) and Honors (H) level are college preparatory.
- Balance in your student's program is important. (A mix of Standard (S), CTP and/or Honors coursework is typical.)

Level Determination will be based on the following criteria:

- Reading skills and interest
- Writing and research skills
- Ability to handle long term assignments independently
- Conceptual versus concrete learning skills
- Academic motivation level of the student
- Ability to work independently increases as the level increases
- Attendance
- 8th Grade teacher recommendation
- 8th Grade performance through Quarter 2
- 6th, 7th, NWEA RIT Scores (RIT Scores published in this document are for guiding purposes in decision making)
- Fall of 8th Grade Statewide Assessment (NH SAS) Scores

The KRHS 2021/2022 Program of Studies is found online at www.kingswoodhighschoolcounseling.org.

Ninth Grade English

English 9 is a foundational course featuring instruction in each of the five Common Core ELA strands: reading literature, reading informational texts, writing, speaking and listening, and language. The English 9 program is intended to help students transition from middle to high school, and to prepare them for English 10. Focus is on acquiring and applying skills in literary analysis, critical thinking, effective communication, and information literacy. Please refer to page 68 in the KRHS Program of Studies for full course description.

English 9 (S) supports students who earn a KRMS Language Arts assessment in the range of ***2 or below***, who meet:

NWEA Reading 220 or less
NH SAS ELA L1 or L2

and who:

- Need to work on skills and comfort level in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and working collaboratively.

- Need assistance with development of skills in reading, note taking, essay writing, and research.

English 9 (CTP) supports students who earn a KRMS Language Arts assessment in the range of **3 or higher**, who meet:

NWEA Reading 221-230
NH SAS ELA L3

and who:

- Demonstrate proficiency in reading and writing skills.
- Are motivated and the ability to manage projects and research papers with some support.
- Have consistent work effort.
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively in a classroom setting.
- **Consistently completes homework and puts effort into work outside of the school day.**
- Have **minimal absences** from school (less than 10 days per school year)

English 9 (H) supports students who earn a KRMS Language Arts assessment of **3.5 or higher**, who meet:

NWEA Reading 231+
NH SAS ELA L4

and who:

- Have a high level of skills and interest in reading and writing.
- Demonstrate motivation and the ability to handle projects, papers, and long-term assignments with minimal support.
- Are eager to delve deeper into subject matter.
- Work independently with minimal support.
- Demonstrate independence, consistency in completing homework, and willingness to put extra work into learning outside of the school day.
- Are **rarely absent** from school.

Ninth Grade Mathematics

Math Essentials A/B (S): is a yearlong math course that is designed to provide a broad spectrum of math applications for the student. Emphasis is on life skills experiences. Topics to be covered in this course include, but are not limited to, the following; money, banking, fractions, measurement, percent, decimals, graphs, etc. Please see page 73 of the KRHS Program of Studies

This course is only offered at the Standard Level, supports students who meet:

NWEA Math 209 or less
NH SAS Math L1
NWEA Reading 220 or less
NH SAS ELA L1 or L2

Pre-Algebra IA/B (S): is a yearlong math course that is designed for the student who needs reinforcement of basic skills while developing algebraic concepts and the idea of variable at a slower pace. Please see page 73 of the KRHS Program of Studies for full course description.

This course is only offered at the Standard Level, supports students who meet:

NWEA Math 210-219
NH SAS Math L1 or L2
NWEA Reading 221-230
NH SAS ELA L1 or L2

and who:

- Require additional development of computational skills
- Learn best with well-delineated steps and lots of practice
- Need assistance with the development of skills in organizational notetaking and reading.

Algebra IA/B (S) is a yearlong math course that is designed for the student who needs reinforcement of basic skills while developing algebraic concepts and the idea of variable at a slower pace. Please see page 73 of the KRHS Program of Studies for full course description.

This course is only offered at the Standard Level, supports students who meet:

NWEA Math 220-229
NH SAS Math L2
NWEA Reading 221-230
NH SAS ELA L2

and who:

- Require additional development of computational skills
- Learn best with well-delineated steps and lots of practice
- Need assistance with the development of skills in organizational notetaking and reading

Algebra I (CTP) is a semester-long course where students will learn traditional topics in algebra. The concepts studied in this course include algebraic properties and the real number system, functions and their graphs, linear equations and inequalities, linear regression and modeling, systems of linear equations and inequalities, quadratic

functions, algebraic fractions, and real world applications. Additional data analysis, discrete mathematics, geometry, and statistics and probability will be covered. Please see page 74 of the KRHS Program of Studies for full course description. This course is only offered at the CTP level, supports students who meet:

NWEA Math 226+
NH SAS Math L3
NWEA Reading 221-230
NH SAS ELA L3

and who are:

- Proficient in mathematical reading, note-taking and computation
- Motivated and have the ability to manage daily assignments and structured projects
- Have good organizational skills
- Are able to draw from multiple sources and previous concepts
- **Consistently completes homework and puts effort into work outside of the school day**
- **Minimal absences** from school (less than 10 days per school year)

Geometry is a semester long course where students will learn basic concepts about geometric figures, such as lines, angles, polygons, circles and their relationships to each other as well as algebraic applications to geometry. Please see page 74 of the KRHS Program of Studies for full course descriptions.

Students must have successfully completed **Algebra I with Quadratics** in 8th Grade and have been recommended for CTP or Honors level placement.

Geometry (CTP) supports students who earn a minimum score of **3.0** in Algebra I, who meet:

NWEA Math 231-236
NH SAS Math L3
NWEA Reading 221-230
NH SAS ELA L3

and who:

- Are proficient in mathematical reading, note-taking and computation
- Are motivated and have the ability to manage daily assignments and structured projects
- Have good organization skills
- Are able to draw from multiple sources and previous concepts
- Have **minimal absences** from school (less than 10 days per school year)
- **Consistently completes homework and puts effort into work outside of the school day**

Geometry Honors (H) supports students who earn a minimum score of **3.5** in Algebra I, who meet:

NWEA Math 237+
NH SAS Math L4
NWEA Reading 231+
NH SAS ELA L4

and who:

- A high level of mathematical reading and computational skills
- Internal motivation and ability to manage daily assignments and projects
- Ability to absorb new concepts quickly; independent learner
- Excellent organizational skills
- Ability to handle the accelerated pace
- Willingness and eagerness to pursue challenges
- Ability to synthesize new information
- Ability to use mathematical language to explain connections among concepts
- Ability to use mathematical language to explain why solutions are reasonable
- Independence and is consistent in completing homework and is willing to put extra work into learning outside of the school day
- **Rare absences** from school

Ninth Grade Social Studies

All levels of ninth grade social studies classes study world history from the middle ages to the 20th century. The purpose of this course is to have students learn about the historical development of the major cultures and societies. The emphasis is on both European and non-Western societies. Areas of focus include geographical knowledge of our world, historical analysis and comparison of different cultures, and political and economic development of societies' that have contributed to our modern global community. All students will work on skill development using primary source documents, textbooks, research in the library media center, and research on the web. Assignments in all classes work to develop analytical thinking and writing skills, research skills, and verbal presentation skills. Please refer to page 82 in the KRHS Program of Studies for full course description.

World History Standard (S) supports students who earn a KRMS Social Studies assessment in the range of **2 or below**, who meet:

NWEA Reading 220 or less
NH SAS ELA L1 or L2

and who:

- Need to work on skills and comfort level in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and working collaboratively

- Need assistance with development of skills in reading, note taking, essay writing, and research.

World History (CTP) supports students who earn a KRMS Social Studies assessment in the range of **3 or higher**, who meet:

NWEA Reading 221-230
NH SAS ELA L3

and who:

- Demonstrate proficiency in reading and writing skills
- Have motivation and the ability to manage projects and research papers with some support
- Have consistent work effort
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively in a classroom setting
- **Consistently completes homework and puts effort into work outside of the school day**
- Have **minimal absences** from school (less than 10 days per school year)

World History Honors (H) supports students who earn a KRMS Social Studies assessment of **3.5 or higher**, who meet:

NWEA Reading 231+
NH SAS ELA L4

and who:

- Have a high level of skills and interest in reading and writing
- Demonstrate motivation and the ability to handle projects, papers, and long term assignments with minimal support
- Are eager to delve deeper into subject matter
- Work independently with minimal support
- Demonstrate independence, consistency in completing homework, and willingness to put extra work into learning outside of the school day
- Are **rarely absent** from school

Ninth Grade Physical Science

Physical Science is the first course in the Kingswood science sequence. This course is an investigation of the basic nature of motion, forces, energy, heat, sound, light, chemistry, and their application to everyday life. Concepts will be presented with emphasis of practical applications of physics and chemistry. Laboratory projects and activities are a major part of the program. Please see page 78 of the KRHS Program of Studies for full course description.

Physical Science (S) supports students who earn a KRMS Science assessment of **2 or below**, who meet:

NWEA Reading 220 or less

NH SAS ELA L1 or L2

NWEA Math 220 or less

NH SAS Math L1 or L2

This course supports students in the following ways:

- With directions, students begin to apply content to themes
- Shorter tests are given more frequently to allow for mastery of smaller bits of information
- Guidance is given with lab report writing and use of computers to generate data analysis
- Graphic organizers are often provided to help with note-taking as well as writing of essays on tests
- Assignments may often be broken down into parts to help students manage workload
- Time is spent helping students with basic math concepts and graphing
- Vocabulary and word lists are often provided to help guide students' writing
- **Student typically will be dually enrolled in Math Essentials, Pre-Algebra I or possibly Algebra 1A/B.**

Physical Science (CTP) supports students who earn a KRMS Science assessment of **3 or better**, who meet:

NWEA Reading 221-230

NH SAS ELA L3

NWEA Math 220-236

NH SAS Math L3

The student expectations are as follows:

- Student is working to gradually develop the ability to independently tie content to larger themes
- Unit tests are given that involve synthesis of larger amounts of information
- Abstract thinking is gradually introduced into essay writing
- Student has developed note-taking skills
- Ability to write lab reports using rubrics and peer editing. Use of computers to generate graphs will be introduced and students will be expected to handle on their own
- Understand basic math concepts and the conventions of graphing
- Manage long term assignments with minimal support
- Able to use terminology when writing essays

- **Consistently completes homework and puts effort into work outside of the school day.**
- **Minimal absences** from school. (no more than 10 days per school year)
- **Student typically will be dually enrolled in Algebra 1A/B, Algebra I or Geometry CTP.**

Physical Science Honors (H) supports students who have earned a KRMS Science assessment or **3.5 or better**, who meet:

NWEA Reading 231+

NH SAS ELA L4

NWEA Math 237+

NH SAS Math L4

Student expectations are as follows:

- Student can tie content to larger themes with little to no direction
- Unit tests involve syntheses of larger amounts of information, and review sheets not generally provided
- Ability to think abstractly is expected
- Student must be able to organize materials and keep up with notes
- Lab reports will require students to know how to use the computer to create graphs, and knowledge/use of Excel is expected
- Student must be comfortable applying math concepts to their understanding of physical science.
- Student can manage long term assignments and balance their own work load independently
- Student must be able to incorporate scientific language into their essays with ease
- Independent and consistent in completing homework and willing to put extra work into learning outside of the school day
- Student is **rarely absent** from school
- **Student typically will be dually enrolled in Geometry Honors**

World Language in Ninth Grade

The World Language Department offers courses designed to be the academic expectations of a diversified student body. World Language is **NOT** required to graduate from KRHS, however, it is required for four-year college admissions. Student may continue studying a language they started in middle school or begin learning a new language.

Students who successfully passed Spanish or French I in 8th grade with a consistent performance of 3 or better may enroll in Spanish II or French II CTP in 9th grade. Students who had a consistent performance of 3.5 or better may enroll at the Honors level. Students who did not complete level I in 8th grade or wish to change languages

may enroll in Spanish or French I CTP (there is no honors option at this level). Students who wish to enroll in a level I language should be working at the CTP or higher level in English, World History and Physical Science. Those who are not working at the CTP level should delay starting a World Language until 10th grade. Please refer to page 89 of the KRHS Program of Studies for full course descriptions.

World Language II (CTP) supports students who earned a **3.0 or higher** in level I language and have a **NWEA RIT Reading Score: 221-229**. Student expectations are as follows:

- Enjoy learning about another language, even if it is not always easy
- Like to do activities in the classroom
- May take several times to correct an error and sometime may repeat errors
- May not always know an error when they see it
- Are stronger in one or two language skills than others: (Example: understanding what they hear is easier than understanding what they read)
- Hang in there and are willing to figure it out if they don't understand something right away
- **Consistently completes homework and put effort into work outside of the school day**
- Are enrolled and generally successful in CTP level courses
- Have **minimal absences** from school (no more than 10 days per school year)

World Language II Honors (H) supports students who earned a **3.5 or higher** in level I language and have a **NWEA RIT Reading Score of 231+**. Student expectations are as follows:

- Love learning another language
- Enjoy learning something new, and applying right away
- Can usually make corrections in use of language after being shown the error once or twice
- Enjoy trying to make new combinations of language and are not afraid to make mistakes
- Confident in ability to figure out something they don't understand right away
- Independent and consistent in completing homework and willing to put extra work into learning outside of the school day
- Enjoy the idea of only speaking the language in the classroom
- Are **rarely absent** from school
- Are enrolled and generally highly successful at the Honors level courses

The Process for Appealing Placement Recommendations for Core Courses

Placement recommendations are made to support students having the most successful transition into high school. Freshman year is the foundation year to building a strong high school career. Student's with a strong foundation year, have proven better long-term outcomes. The high school in conjunction with KRMS teachers have made recommendations based on your student's historical performance on standardized testing, classroom performance and attendance records. That said, if you disagree here are the following steps for appealing.

Step 1: File a Placement Appeal Form by **Friday, March 5, 2021 at 2:30PM**. This document can be found at the KRHS Counseling website on the Program of Studies Page. (www.kingswoodhighschoolcounseling.com). Print out, sign and return to **KRHS Counseling Office**. (Due to scheduling timeframes, **NO LATE** appeals will be accepted.)

Step 2: Filing this request registers your student to sit for the NWEA Assessment afterschool on the following dates: (Note: Virtual Students will need to sign up for one or the other.) Students will test in the KRHS Lecture Hall 10ft apart, with masks on. Typically we have about 5-7 students in total who appeal placements so likely to be spaced greater than 10 ft apart.

Cohort A:

Monday, March 15, 2021: English/Language

Tuesday March 16, 2021: Math

Cohort B:

Thursday, March 17, 2021: English/Language

Thursday, March 25, 2021: Math

Students should report to the KRHS Counseling Office at 2:30PM on ***both*** days to retake the NWEA. Students can take the late bus home upon completion. (Students who do not show up for testing on both days will maintain KRHS recommended placement for 9th grade.)

Step 3: Should the student demonstrate the required skills on this assessment the appeal will be granted. Otherwise the recommendation will stand. Please note this recommendation is for 9th grade placement only.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Lara Crane, KRHS Head of School Counseling at 569-2055.

(Updated 01/19/2021)